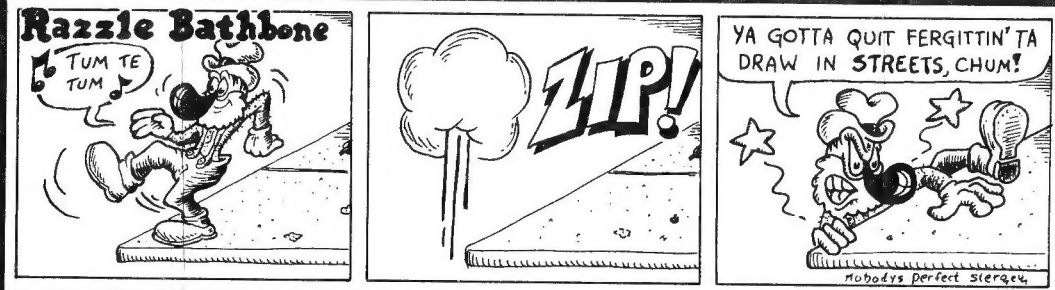
NEW THINGS. Main problem with Stan Lee's ORIGINS book is the style of the writing and the lack of any research. It is one of those books which ought to contain much more than it does for the amount of money charged. As it is, it is nothing but an extended Bullpen page with a few glossy reprints of Marvel superhero stories. I love the Kirby reprints, which are from books like FANTASTIC 4 #1 (now running as high as $75 for a mint copy), but am disappointed with all of Lee. This is not a history, but a memoir, yet the way it is presented many will think it is intended to be a history. And those who do not know the origins of most of the characters now in the Marvel Comics will be further confused. Lee, to give him the benefit of the doubt, is simply negligent. What he prefers to think of as creativity, i. e., his concepts for Marvel, is really an ability to adapt on previous ideas. All of the characters in Fantastic Four are earlier heroes restyled. The Human Torch was around in Marvel Mystery back in the 1940's, and so was Bill Everett's Sub-Mariner. The Thing is an obvious adaptation of Mort Leav's The Heap (Airboy #8, 1947), and Mr. Fantastic is simply Plastic Man without the genius of Jack Cole. In case you're thinking, well, at least he came up with Invisible Girl, you're wrong again. She's an update of Invisible Scarlet O'Neill. Lee, who went to work at Timely when he was 17, gives none of the background on the company, and mentions none of the earlier characters I have noted. Though he uses Sub-Mariner in one of the reprints in ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS, he gives Everett no mention at all. Needless to say, Lee does not mention his authorship of dozens of stories for books like TESSIE THE TYPIST and MILLIE THE MODEL (circa 1945), preferring to emphasize his relationship with Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko. He gives no biographies on either artist,

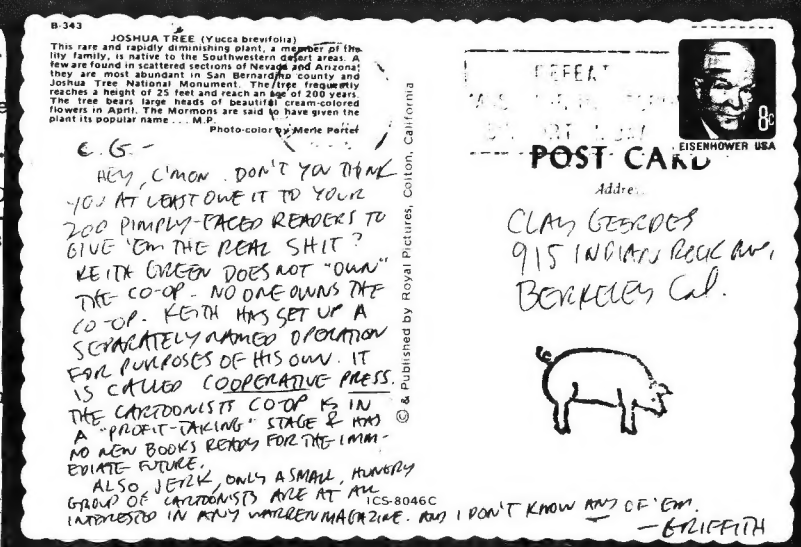


A subscription and all back issues to COMIX WORLD may be had by sending $5.25 to Clay Geerdes, 915 Indian Rock Rd., Berkeley, Ca 94707. November, 1974. Logo this issue by Joltin' Jim Siergey. All art herein copyright by the artist and company concerned. On to the gossip: Vaughn Bode strolled into Hamburger Mary's in mid-November & let us know he was awarded The Yellow Kid medal in Lucca, Italy, where cartoonists are well thought of. Later on his tour, he was the first artist ever to perform in the Louvre in Paris, France. The same afternoon Larry Todd showed up wearing his new Dr. Atomic t-shirt (Last Gasp sells 'em--little plug there). Ron Turner told me George DiCaprio has a new son, Leonardo DiCaprio, another cartoonist for 2001. By mail, Bill Spicer asked me why I didn't review COMIX BOOK in CW 18 and the answer is I don't wanna. "Is it an underground?" No, it's a Marvel. The good news is that Felix Dennis may publish Guy Colwell's third INNER CITY ROMANCE COMIC. Is the ten-cent comic movement doing well? Yes, it's fine. The second issue of PANDEMONIUM EXPRESS FUNNIES is out. Kevin East, one of the editors has a strip running in the Berkeley BARB's new FRIDAY FUNNIES. An all-color YOUNG LUST #4 will be ready at the Print Mint in time for your Christmas sock; that and a copy of Will Eisner's SPIRIT COLORING BOOK will get your Mom and Dad ready to face life in the real world. Nothing like antidotes to T-V! C.G.

OTHER STUFF. There is a new comic company, Seaboard Periodicals. 717 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022. 28 titles coming out, says THE COMIC READER. I've seen a few of them, and they are, frankly, more disappointing than Stan Lee's book. If he imitated the heroes of the forties and Seaboard is imitating him (and they are), then what does that give the reader but imitations of imitations. DEVILINA! WULF THE BARBARIAN, THE BRUTE. IRON JAW. Will it never end? The only book I could relate to at all was PHOENIX, THE MAN OF TOMORROW (and where, fans, is that phrase from?). I like the concept, but it's already clear that nothing of interest is going to be done with it. The hero has already become another Hulk, the outcast American hero fighting those evil aliens. What is absurd is the idea that Phoenix could have escaped at all if those aliens were as sharp as we are supposed to think they are. They discovered the Earth years before and the human race was a result of their experimentation. Under the thin veneer of this plot lies Marvel's Warlock and the High Evolutionary and Counter-Earth and under that, of course, lies Jack Kirby's New Gods and New Genesis and Apokalips, and under that lies a lot of Jules Verne and H. G. Wells, not to mention a lot of other creative writers and thinkers who are rarely given credit for what they do when it gets translated into comics. PHOENIX has possibilities, but not in the old good-hero/evil alien tradition--How long do we have to go on reading simple-minded shit like that? WULF THE BARBARIAN isn't even worth a comment. It's insulting to the fan in particular and to the general reader as well. My readers are urged to write to Seaboard (Atlas Comics) and tell them to clean up their act. What are they trying to do, set comic art back to the early days of ACTION and WONDERWORLD?

11-15-74

In England, Cosmic has come out with a pair of old-fashioned ugs and I've run samples of the art on this page (top left and bottom right). The titles are ANIMAL WEIRDNESS and DOPEFIEND FUNNIES. One of the artists featured in AW is Joe Petagno. His story is about a couple of mice who get stoned--"Tales of Heavy Cheddar." Strong influence of Sheridan and Schrier, but Petagno has his own style and I enjoy his sense of humor as well as his layouts. He's doing a solo book soon entitled IT'S ONLY ROCK 'N' ROLL COMICS. R. M. Pate's JIVEASS JACKAL is for all those fans who (like me) miss the old Fox and Crow. If you missed it, that was Crawford Crow who was done in under the name Flip the Bird in COMIX BOOK 1 (art by John Pound).


B-343
JOSHUA TREE (Yucca brevifolia)
This rare and rapidly diminishing plant, a member of the lily family, is native to the Southwestern desert areas. A few are found in scattered sections of Nevada and Arizona; they are most abundant in San Bernardino county and Joshua Tree National Monument. The tree frequently reaches a height of 25 feet and reach an age of 200 years. The tree bears large heads of beautiful cream-colored flowers in April. The Mormons are said to have given the plant its popular name.... M.P.
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ALSO, JETZK, ONLY A SMALL, HUNGRY GROUP OF CARTOONISTS ARE AT ALL INTERESTED IN ANY WARREN MAGAZINE. AND I DON'T KNOW ANY OF 'EM.
—GRIFFITH

LAST MINUTE FLASHES: A THIRD ish of PANDEMONIUM EXPRESS FUNNIES! 5¢ for this four-pager. Sharon Banks and Kevin Brady get into the act. Jay Lynch did the card for Curt & Betty Metz' wedding reception & a lot of other ug cartoonists have contributed to the book. In Fresno, Doug "Frezno Funnies" Hansen is going to teach a course on comix in the Spring. That'll be at FSC. Meanwhile, he's at work on his new opus, MADCAP MARITIME MAMMALS. . . Dada madman Tom Hosier & a group of zanies have come out with MODERN CORRESPONDENCE MAGAZINE #1. P. O. Box 253, Plymouth, Ct. 06782. The idea is worth a quarter and it's one you may want to contribute to. COMIX WORLD was a year old in Oct. Warm thanks to all those friends who have helped me keep it together.

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COMIX WORLD correction. Any of my "pimply-faced" artists, lawyers, teachers, publishers, and collectors who feel inclined to reply to Bill Griffith may address their letters to him c/o Cartoonists Co-op Press, Box 40474, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. *historical footnote: card dated 11-8-74.

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REFLECTIONS. We had a good turn-out for animation day. Saw the first Betty Boop, "Dirty Dishes (1930)," which was done when our Betty was just one step above being a funny animal. Local readers into animation may see a lot of early stuff at Intersection, 756 Union St., S. F. in North Beach, Sunday evenings. Carl Cohen shows the films there. He's a teacher and film collector. He'll be showing a reel at Comics in America Day at UC on January 18, 1975. At the Presidio, Underground Cinema is still in progress, and Doug Wendt always starts the program with a Betty Boop. How come everybody loves Betty? Well, if you compare those early 30's Fleischer cartoons with the Saturday morning schlock on today's tv you'll know right away. Hanna Barbera is not liked. Willie Ito was liked at Animation Day, but not the company he works for. One writer to COMIX WORLD said: "It was a little frustrating seeing someone of Willie Ito's talent confined as Hanna-Barbera's mouthpiece;" and a member of the audience was concerned about what all that Saturday morning stuff was doing to kid's minds. There was a lot of interest in the field of animation. People want to learn how to do it. H-B was attacked by one young woman as a sexist company, because women always wind up as inkers and painters. It's changing.

* * * * * * * * COUPON * * * * * * * *

LAST-GASP ECO-FUNNIES, 1274 FOLSOM ST, SAN FRANCISCO, CA. has a new batch of t-shirts on sale for the Christmas season. Designs are Betty Boop (red and black), Dr. Atomic (green), Harold Hedd (blue and brown) and Last Gasp Comix (our Skull and roses). All t-shirts are $5 with this coupon. Order early.

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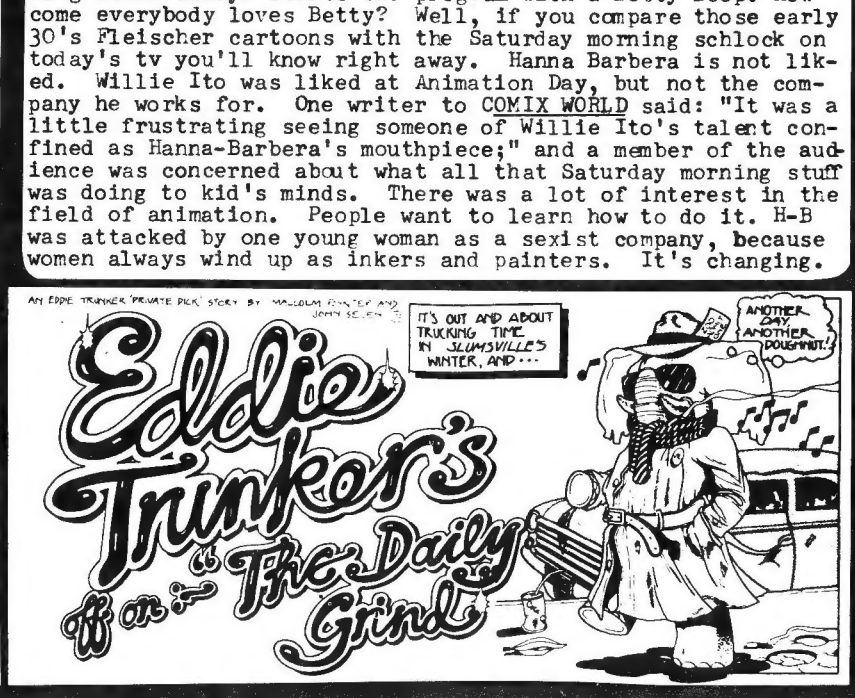
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